



AMERICA'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

The Journey That Changed the World

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Virginia Indians Discuss 400 Years of Survival

Conference to Feature Nationally Known Speakers on Indian History and Culture

Williamsburg, VA—Virginia's Indian tribes are hosting a three-day conference this October to showcase their culture and discuss the laws and policies that have affected Virginia Indians and Indians nationwide.

"Virginia Indians: 400 Years of Survival" will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Williamsburg Lodge and at tribal centers throughout Virginia. It will feature representatives from Virginia's eight-state recognized tribes as well as nationally known speakers and dignitaries. The conference will include panel discussions on "Indian Law and Culture Through History," "Government Policy as it Relates to American Indians," and "Preserving History and Culture."

"The first laws concerning Indian tribes originated in Virginia, and the first forced displacement of Indian tribes to reservations occurred in Virginia. Those termination and reservation policies went on to affect Indians across America, and are not properly taught as part of Virginia or United States history," said Upper Mattaponi Chief Kenneth Adams. "This symposium gives us an opportunity to educate the public on parts of our culture and history, and review these laws and policies in an educational environment."

Dr. Robert Duncan, president of Bacone College in Muskogee, OK, will address conference attendees during a luncheon being held at the lodge. Many Virginia Indians attended Bacone College from the 1940s through the 1990s. At times Bacone was the only high school education available to Virginia Indians.

Tex Hall, chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara) in North Dakota, will deliver a keynote speech during a banquet that evening. Hall is the former president of the National Congress of American Indians. In appearances before congressional committees and in many other venues, he has lobbied on behalf of all Native Americans on such issues as housing, education, and discrimination in employment.

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The conference then takes to the road for a two-day tour of Virginia's tribal lands. On Oct. 6, the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock and the Upper Mattaponi tribes are inviting the public to their tribal centers to participate in special events and programs showcasing their culture and history. The tour will conclude with a special dinner, traditional music and dancing at the Chickahominy tribal center.

On Oct. 7, the Monacan Indian Nation will host its annual Homecoming in Amherst County. Transportation and a guided tour will be available for conference attendees wishing to attend.

"As we visit the tribal centers, hopefully participants will learn first-hand about our past and the hopes we have for our future. We have never before had this opportunity to tell our own story in our own words on such a comprehensive level," Adams said.

The panel discussions are free to the public. Separate fees will be assessed for individuals attending the banquet functions on Oct. 5, for individuals interested in the bus tour to the various tribal centers on Oct. 6 or for transportation to the Monacan Indian Nation's Homecoming on Oct. 7.

The conference agenda is attached.

WHAT Virginia Indians: 400 Years of Survival
An Educational Conference featuring tribal center tours

WHEN October 5-7, 2006

WHERE Oct. 5
Williamsburg Lodge
310 South England Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Oct. 6
A bus tour of the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi Indian tribal land. Special activities are being planned for visitors. Tour includes lunch and dinner.

Oct. 7
Monacan Indian Nation Homecoming, Amherst County. Tour includes lunch.

REGISTRATION

- To register for the conference,
 - visit **www.Americas400thAnniversary.com**
 - call **1-866-400-1607**

COST

- Conference panel discussions are **free** to the public
- Lunch featuring the conference speaker Dr. Robert Duncan: \$20
- Reception and banquet dinner with Keynote Speaker Tex Hall: \$50
- Bus tour, lunch and dinner on Oct. 6 to Indian reservations and tribal centers: \$50
 - Space is limited, please register early
- Bus tour and lunch on Oct. 7 to the Monacan Indian Nation's Homecoming: \$35
 - Space is limited, please register early

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Virginia Indians: 400 Years of Survival
An Educational Conference, October 5, 2006
and
Tours of Tribal Centers
October 6-7, 2006

Thursday, October 5 – Educational Conference (Williamsburg Lodge)

- 7:30 am Registration
- 9:00 Welcome and Introduction of program
Chief Kenneth Adams, Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- 9:15 Session I – Indian Law and Culture Through History
Moderator – Chief Stephen Adkins, Chickahominy Tribe
Panel –
Arlinda Lochlear, Lumbee Tribe, Attorney, Washington DC
Rodney Smolla, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Richmond
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Session II- Government Policy as it relates to American Indians
Moderator – Chief Anne Richardson, Rappahannock Tribe
Panel –
Mark Tilden, Navaho, Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
David Wilkins, Lumbee, Professor, University of Minnesota
- 12:30 pm Lunch, Williamsburg Lodge
Speakers:
Gene Nichol, President, College of William & Mary
Dr. Robert Duncan, President, Bacone College
- 2:00 Session III – Preserving History and Culture
Moderator – Assistant Chief Warren Cook, Pamunkey Tribe
Panel –
Deanna Francis, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Maine
Jim Pepper Henry, Kaw/Muskogee, Assistant Director of Community Services,
National Museum of the American Indian
Maggie Paul, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Canada
E. Randolph Turner, Chief Archaeologist for the Werowocomoco Project
- 3:30 Wrap Up
Chief Kenneth Adams, Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- 6:00 Reception
- 7:00 Banquet Dinner with Keynote Speaker Tex Hall
Tex Hall, Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes, North Dakota,
and former president of the National Congress of American Indians

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Friday, October 6 – Tours of Tribal Centers

9:00 am Bus departure from the Williamsburg Lodge for visits to the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Indian Reservations

Boxed lunch at the Mattaponi Indian Reservation

During the afternoon, continue with tours and special demonstrations at the Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock and Chickahominy Tribal Centers

The day concludes with a special dinner at the Chickahominy Tribal Center, featuring a program of music and dance demonstrations

8:00 pm Estimated return to the Williamsburg Lodge

Saturday, October 7 – Tour to the Monacan Homecoming

8:30 am Bus departure from the Williamsburg Lodge for Amherst County to attend the Monacan Indian Nation's Annual Homecoming

Lunch included

7:00 p.m. Estimated arrival at the Williamsburg Lodge

****Schedule subject to change**

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